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known, together with diagnostic keys for their determination, and as much of their synonymy as relates to Jamaican records. No undescribed species were found, but the collections made by recent explorers added a number to those recorded by Mr. Clarke in his monograph of the West Indian Cyperaceae, published in the second volume of Professor Urban's "*Symbolae Antillanae*."

"Exhibition of Photomicrographs of North American Woods," by Dr. C. Stuart Gager.

Numerous specimens were shown from a collection of photomicrographs of cross-sections of North American woods, recently acquired by the Garden from Mr. James A. Weale, of the firm of Williams, Weale & Co., of Liverpool, England. These photomicrographs are all enlarged ten diameters, thus facilitating comparison. They are of very superior quality, so that many finer elements of the histology of the various woods can be demonstrated under a lens with nearly as great satisfaction as from the original sections. They possess the advantage of being less fragile than the sections themselves and of serving better than these for purposes of demonstration before classes and otherwise. The collection contains representations of practically all North American species.

By way of comparison, specimens were shown of Hough's "*American Woods*" and of Nördlinger's "*Holzquerschnitte*."

The Club adjourned at five o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,  
*Secretary.*

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. John A. Shafer has started on a collecting trip, for the New York Botanical Garden, to the West Indian island of Montserrat.

Dr. Marshall A. Howe returned to New York on January 30 from a botanical expedition to Jamaica. Six weeks were spent in collecting and studying marine algae in the vicinity of Kingston and Montego Bay.

Mr. E. S. Steele, of the United States National Museum, spent a few days, about the first of January, studying the herbarium material in the New York Botanical Garden.

At the annual meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club, on January 8, the officers of the preceding year were reëlected, and an additional associate editor was added to the editorial staff. An amendment was introduced to increase the number of associate editors to eight instead of seven.

A reception to visiting botanists was given at Schermerhorn Hall on Wednesday evening, December 26, 1906, by the Torrey Botanical Club. It was largely attended and highly successful.

The Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden entertained at luncheon the botanists attending the session of the Botanical Society of America held in the Museum of the Garden on Saturday, December 29, 1906.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science held its fifty-seventh meeting in New York City, December 27, 1906, to January 2, 1907. As has been the custom in late years, various affiliated scientific societies held sessions in the same city during the same week. Section G (botany) met in Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, on Thursday afternoon, December 27, on Friday morning, and on Monday, with the vice-president, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, in the chair. Dr. Tracy E. Hazen acted as secretary in the absence of Professor F. E. Lloyd. The Friday morning session was a joint one of Sections F (zoölogy) and G, devoted to the discussion of heredity. In the absence of the retiring chairman, Dr. Erwin F. Smith, his vice-presidential address was omitted. Professor Charles E. Bessey was elected chairman of Section G for the next meeting. About 125 botanists were in attendance at the sessions of the Section and of the affiliated societies.

The Botanical Society of America met in New York City, December 27-31, 1906. The federation of the three societies, the Botanical Society of America, the American Mycological Society, and the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology, was effected at the first session on Thursday, December 27. The president, Professor F. S. Earle, acted as chairman during the first day; as he was not able to be present at the later sessions, the chair was occupied by the vice-president, Professor Frederic E. Clements. Meetings for the readings of scientific papers were

held on Thursday, at Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University; on Saturday, at the Museum of the New York Botanical Garden, when one of the papers was the address of the retiring president, Professor R. A. Harper, on "The Organization of certain Coenobitic Plants"; and on Monday, at Schermerhorn Hall. In all, twenty-nine papers were presented. Officers of the new Botanical Society of America were elected as follows: Professor George F. Atkinson, president; Dr. N. L. Britton, vice-president; Professor D. S. Johnson, secretary; Dr. Arthur Hollick, treasurer.

The American Society of Naturalists held its twenty-fourth annual meeting in Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, New York City, on the afternoon of Friday, December 28, 1906. The scientific program consisted of a discussion of the biological significance and control of sex, and several of the papers viewed the topic from a botanical standpoint.

The Sullivant Moss Chapter held a meeting on Friday afternoon, December 28, 1906, in Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, the president, Mr. Edward B. Chamberlain, in the chair. In the absence of the secretary, Dr. John W. Bailey, Miss Edith A. Warner acted as secretary pro tem. There were exhibits by members of specimens and photographs, and a scientific program of six papers, by Professor A. W. Evans, Miss Annie Lorenz, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, Professor Bruce Fink, Dr. A. J. Grout and Mr. R. S. Williams.

At the American Museum of Natural History, on the afternoon of Saturday, December 29, 1906, occurred the ceremonies attending the unveiling of the busts of American men of science, presented to the Museum by Mr. Morris K. Jesup. Among the busts unveiled was that of Professor John Torrey, and a brief memorial address upon the life and work of Dr. Torrey was delivered by Dr. N. L. Britton. Busts of Alexander von Humboldt and Joseph Leidy, both of whom contributed to the advancement of botanical science, although better known from their work in other fields, were also among the number.